

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Joint Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR) for the Port of Los Angeles Channel Deepening Project Feasibility Study; Los Angeles County, CA**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Corps and the Port of Los Angeles (POLA) propose to deepen the Main Channel of the Port of Los Angeles from -45' Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) to between -50' MLLW and -55' MLLW dredging and disposing of approximately 3.7 to 7.8 million cubic yards (mcy).

ADDRESSES: Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Attn: CESPL-PD-RN, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, California, 90053-2325.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Mr. Larry Smith, phone (213) 452-3846; or E-mail: lsmith@spl.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Authorization:* The study was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-662) Section 203.

2. *Background:* The SEIS/SEIR supplements the Deep Draft Navigation Improvements, Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors, San Pedro Bay, California Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (SEPT 1992) and the Channel Deepening Project Port of Los Angeles Environmental Impact Report (JAN 1998).

3. *Proposed Action:* The Corps and the POLA are proposing to deepen the main navigation channel into the Port of Los Angeles in order to accommodate the larger deeper draft generation of container ships now entering the shipping service. The proposed project would deepen the Main Channel from its current depth of -45' MLLW to a propose depth of either -50', -52', or -55' MLLW. This would require the dredging of between 3.7 to 7.8 mcy of harbor sediments. Disposal options include offshore, near/onshore and upland sites. Potential disposal sites being investigated are the Pier 300 Expansions Site, the Pier 400 Submerged Storage Site, the Pier 400 Upland Site, the Southwest Slip Fill Site, the Cabrillo Shallow Water Habitat Expansion Site, a local Upland Disposal

site, and/or Ocean Disposal Sites LA-2 and/or LA-3.

4. *Alternatives:* Alternative depths being considered are -50' MLLW, -52' MLLW and -55' MLLW. Alternative disposal sites are listed above. Each site will be evaluated for its full storage potential. A combination of sites will be selected based on the chosen channel depth alternative, and thus dredge disposal volume, and potential impacts from the use of each disposal site. The proposed plan, viable project alternatives, and the "no action" plan will be carried forward for detailed analysis pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, as amended) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (Public Resources Code, Sections 21000-21177).

5. *Scoping Process:* a. Potential impacts associated with the proposed action will be fully evaluated. Resource categories that will be analyzed are: biology, air quality, water quality, cultural resources, land use, geology, recreational, aesthetics, ground and vessel transportation, noise, public health and safety, and utilities.

b. The Corps and the POLA are preparing a joint Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Report (SEIS/SEIR) to address potential impacts associated with the proposed project. The Corps is the Lead Federal Agency for compliance with NEPA for the project, and the POLA is the Lead State Agency for compliance with the CEQA for the non-Federal aspects of the project. The Draft SEIS/SEIR (DSEIS/SEIR) document will incorporate public concerns in the analysis of impacts associated with the Proposed Action and associated project alternatives. The DSEIS/SEIR will be sent out for a 45-day public review period, during which time both written and verbal comments will be solicited on the adequacy of the document. The Final SEIS/SEIR (FSEIS/SEIR) will address the comments received on the DSEIS/SEIR during public review, and will be furnished to all who commented on the DSEIS/SEIR, and is made available to anyone that requests a copy during the 30-day public comment period. The final step involves, for the federal SEIS, preparing a Record of Decision (ROD) and, for the state SEIR, certifying the SEIR and adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. The ROD is a concise summary of the decisions made by the Corps from among the alternatives presented in the FSEIS/SEIR. The ROD can be published immediately after the FSEIS public comment period ends. A certified SEIR indicates that the environmental document adequately

assesses the environmental impacts of the proposed project with respect to CEQA.

c. The public, as well as Federal, State, and local agencies are encouraged to participate in the scoping process by attending the scoping meeting and/or submitting data, information, and comments identifying relevant environmental and socioeconomic issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis. Useful information includes other environmental studies, published and unpublished data, historical photos of the area, alternatives that should be addressed in the analysis, and potential environmental enhancement and restoration opportunities that exist along the creek. Individuals and agencies may offer information or data relevant to the proposed study and provide comments by attending the public scoping meeting, or by mailing the information to Mr. Larry Smith before 15 September, 1999. Requests to be placed on the mailing list for announcements and the DSEIS/SEIR should also be sent to Mr. Larry Smith.

6. *Location and time:* A formal scoping meeting to solicit public comment and concerns on the proposed action and alternatives will be held on September 15, 1999 at 3:00 P.M., in the Port Plaza Building of the Port Los Angeles, 425 South Palos Verdes Street, San Pedro, California.

Dated: September 10, 1999.

John P. Carroll,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers District Engineer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Navy****Public Hearing for the Draft Overseas Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DOEIS/DEIS) for the Operational Employment of the Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) Sonar**

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a DOEIS/DEIS for the operational employment of the SURTASS LFA sonar. Public hearings will be held for the purpose of receiving oral and written comments on the DOEIS/DEIS. Federal, state and local agencies, and